



AWIC

Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children

*Winner of 1991 IBBY-Asahi Reading
Promotion Award*

**Indian Section of International
Board on Books for Young People
(IBBY)**

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ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS FOR CHILDREN (AWIC)

Indian Section of International Board on Books for Young People (Ind. BBY)

The **Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC)** is an active forum for the promotion and development of creative literature for children in India. A registered voluntary organisation representing writers and illustrators for children, AWIC is involved in activities connected with children's literature and reading. Membership is also open to librarians, editors, publishers and those interested in the promotion of creative literature for children, who may join the organisation as Annual members, Life members or Institutional members.

Under the guidance of the Late Mr. K. Shankar Pillai, Executive Trustee of Children's Book Trust (CBT), New Delhi, AWIC was launched by the participants of CBT Writers' Workshop on 7 March 1981. Since then, CBT has provided office space and facilities to support AWIC.

Indian Section of IBBY

AWIC represents the Indian Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) since 1990.

IBBY, a nonprofit organisation founded in Zurich, Switzerland in 1953, is a network of people from over 72 nations who are committed to bringing books and children together. IBBY aims at promoting peace and understanding through children's books, and to reaching good books to children everywhere.

AWIC organised the **26th IBBY Congress** in 1998 in New Delhi, with the theme - *Peace through Children's Books*.

AWIC is the winner of the **1991 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award** for its AWIC Children's Library Project. This prestigious international award is presented biennially to two outstanding projects in reading promotion round the world.

Features of AWIC

- **Workshops** in Hindi and English for writers, illustrators, librarians and educators. These are organised regularly to train beginning writers into the specialised art of writing for children
- **Monthly Meetings** to deliberate on different aspects of children's literature and reading habits
- **Competitions** for writers and illustrators
- **Writer and Illustrator**, AWIC's quarterly journal on children's literature, is published and distributed free to all members since 1981
- **Translation** facilities in Indian languages, English, French, German, Russian and Japanese
- **Research** in children's literature is supported and published
- **Reference Cell** helps with information and research
- **Awards** are given to creators of children's literature and child readers –
AWIC Honours are given biennially to writers, illustrators and researchers, and for reading promotion
Children's Choice Awards and *Balpriya Puruskar* are given to books selected by children

Reader of the Year Award and *Best Librarian Award* are presented at the Annual Library Function

- **Seminars and Conferences**, both national and international are organised regularly on different aspects of children's literature
- **Exhibitions** of books and original illustrations of children's books are organised.

AWIC Projects

AWIC CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PROJECT

AWIC launched the **Children's Library Project** in April 1983 with 9 libraries in Delhi. Today, over 125 libraries function in Delhi and other towns and villages to reach good books to children everywhere in India. AWIC members manage these libraries on a voluntary basis from their homes, in parks and slum areas for underprivileged children.

AWIC has opened libraries in earthquake, tsunami and other trauma affected areas. AWIC-IBBY libraries have been organised in four Indian states. AWIC has also set up three libraries sponsored by UNICEF.

AWIC provides books to all its libraries free of charge. AWIC distributed books among underprivileged children through a massive *Gift a Book* campaign in 2008.

AWIC BOOK PROMOTION CELL

The **AWIC Book Promotion Cell** promotes the cause of children's books by Indian authors through book talks. It also invites publishers, authors and illustrators to discuss their problems, and helps them promote their books. AWIC also displays books in schools and other places.

AWIC LITERACY PROJECT

In 1995, AWIC launched its **Literacy Project** and it has published two Hindi alphabet books under its schemes, 'Buy, Teach and Gift' and 'Teach and Gift'. AWIC distributes alphabet books in 8 languages free of charge in all Indian states, including remote areas where children have no access to good books.

AWIC KATHAVACHAN – STORYTELLING PROJECT

AWIC's *Kathavachan* project has popularised storytelling in schools, libraries, hospitals and other institutions. To promote reading, seasoned storytellers narrate stories and conduct book-related activities that inculcate values, making learning fun. AWIC also organises storytelling workshops which help teachers and librarians to use the art of storytelling in schools and community centres.

AWIC BOOK THERAPY PROJECT

AWIC launched the **AWIC Book Therapy Project** in December 2008, to heal traumatized children through stories and books. Children often suffer fears, complexes and maladjustment problems caused by natural and man-made calamities, and traumas both at home and in school. Book Therapy helps reduce stress levels and builds hope for the future.

AWIC holds Book Therapy Workshops where writers specialise in writing for therapeutic purposes. Reading sessions are organised to help heal young readers through books. Special books for therapy and an annotated catalogue are also being created for teachers, librarians, hospital staff, social workers etc.

AWIC PUBLICATIONS PROJECT

AWIC promotes the development of stories, plays, poems and biographies by its members. AWIC has published these in the form of collections.

Several anthologies by AWIC members have also been brought out by other publishers and rank amongst their bestsellers. Publishers from other countries have translated many of these stories into foreign languages. Some have been made into films for children.

AWIC PUBLICATIONS

- **WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR**, the quarterly journal of AWIC
- **MYSTERY STORIES** and **MORE MYSTERY STORIES**, reprinted as **THE GHOST OF FATHER MARTIN AND OTHER MYSTERY STORIES** and **THE ROARING MONUMENTS AND OTHER MYSTERY STORIES**
- **SACHITRA HINDI BAL SHABDKOSH** (*Illustrated Hindi Dictionary for Children*)
- **INDIAN ILLUSTRATORS: 1960-1992**
- **ALPHABET BOOKS** in Hindi, English, Tamil, Urdu, Oriya, Bengali, Gujarati and Telugu
- **PROCEEDINGS of the 26TH IBBY WORLD CONGRESS**
- **CREATORS OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN INDIA**
- **STORIES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE**
- **ONCE UPON A TIME IN INDIA**
- **MERI NAYI KITAAB** (*My New Book, Hindi*)

- *PADHENGGE AUR HASENGE (Let's Read and Laugh, Hindi)*
- *SATRANGE SHISHU GEET (Nursery Rhymes of Seven Colours, Hindi)*

All AWIC publications are available for sale at the AWIC office.

AWIC Milestones

- Seminar on *Promotion of Children's Literature*, 1984
- Indo-Soviet Seminar on *Literature for Children*, 1985
- National Seminar on *Better Books for Children*, 1989
- *Sachitra Hindi Bal Shabdkosh* (Illustrated Hindi Dictionary for Children), 1989
- Exhibition of Original Illustrations, *Words and Colours Go Together*, at Bologna Children's Book Fair, Italy, 1992
- National Seminar on the *Panchatantra*, 1997
- 26th IBBY World Congress - *Peace through Children's Books*, 1998
- Theme Pavilion set up at 14th World Book Fair, New Delhi, with National Book Trust
- Indo-Austrian Conference on *Picture Books from Austria and SAARC Countries*, 2001
- 'Once Upon a Time in India', 2004, nominated for *IBBY Honour List 2006*, for Illustration
- National Seminar on Storytelling – *To Promote Children's Books*, 2003
- Asian Conference on Storytelling – *To Promote the Reading Habit*, 2005

- IBBY's International Children's Book Day (ICBD) poster – *Books are My Magic Eyes*, 2005
- International Conference on Storytelling – *To Promote Peace, Cultural Integration and the Reading Habit in Children*, 2007
- *Gift-a-Book* scheme, 2008
- International Conference on Children's Libraries – *Building a Book Culture*, 2010

Future Programmes

- Expansion of **AWIC Children's Library Project**
- Development and promotion of **AWIC Literacy Project**
- Development and promotion of **AWIC Publications Project**
- Reaching **AWIC Kathavachan (Storytelling) Project** to schools
- Advancing **AWIC Book Therapy Project**
- Travelling exhibitions
- Fostering international co-operation

For further information contact:

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